National paper policy

†1961. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the paper policy of Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the wake of fall in the international prices of paper indigenous companies have increased the prices of paper thus pushing the printing units to the verge of closure;

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps keeping in view the difficulties being faced by the publishers because of this arbitrary-increase in the prices of paper;

(d) whether as a result of closure of printing units the students will not be forced to buy books printed in foreign countries due to unavailability of syllabus books and this will render a large number of workers working in printing units jobless; and

(e) whether Government proposes to allow the import of cheap paper from foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The paper industry, which includes pulp, paper and paper-board and newsprint has been delicensed under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 with effect from 17th July, 1997. The entrepreneurs are required only to file an Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM) with the Secretariat of Industrial Assistance (SIA) for setting up of a new paper unit or substantial expansion of the existing unit in permissible locations. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% is allowed on automatic route on all activities except those requiring industrial licence.

(b) to (d) The domestic prices of the main varieties of writing and printing paper have shown a declining trend from August, 2008 to April, 2009. (Source: CMIE).

(e) The writing and printing paper is under OGL and does not have any quantitative restrictions. The volume of import is determined by the market forces of demand and supply.

Joint panel on trade related issues between India and China

1962. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have set up a joint official panel to sort out trade related issues;

(b) if so, the composition of Members of panel and whether the panel has since discussed the trade related disputes;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.